SPORTS

BRONCOS STILL HAVEN'T SAID WHO WILL BE QB SUNDAY

»1B

LIFE & CULTURE

WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS A GREAT GIFT »1C

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

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WINTER RECREATION

Tourists are hardly deflated by lack of snow in the hills

Laura and Christian Ramos of Fort Worth, Texas, spend some of their honeymoon tubing at Frisco Adventure Park on Friday. The couple, married last Saturday, are staying in Breckenridge. *John Leyba, The Denver Post*

From tubing to hot tubbing, vacationers finding alternatives to skiing

By Jason Blevins *The Denver Post*

VAIL» With the slow start to winter, resorts are aching. Resort operators and community groups are hosting free dinners for idle workers and blasting grassy slopes with man-made snow.

But while ski resorts bemoan Mother Nature's dawdling, not all mountain businesses are dragging. Visitors still go looking for thrills when the dirt-flanked ribbon of artificial snow gets old.

"And we are ready to greet these folks with open arms and red carpets. We are staffing up and expecting a flood," said Nancy Heard, who manages the Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park and nearby Iron Mountain Hot Springs in Glenwood Springs.

Heard's team has strung 500,000 lights across her tram-accessed, Western-themed park atop Iron Mountain. Santa is set up next to the fire pits and s'more stations, and the 26-foot-tall Christmas tree has a choreographed light show. The park and hot springs don't take reservations, but Heard is ready for a 10 to 15 percent surge in annual business due to the extra-

SNOW » 6A

CAPPING OFF YEAR

Trump name is final touch

President signs $1.5 trillion tax overhaul package into law

By Laurie Kellman and Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON» In the end, Donald Trump's top achievement as president— a $1.5 trillion tax overhaul — was finalized in a "rush job" of an affair. And that was OK with him.

None of the members of Congress who muscled through the biggest tax overhaul in 30 years were in the Oval Office on Friday as Trump signed the measure into law. That's because the president was not pleased with news coverage that morning questioning whether he would get the bill signed before Christmas. So he ordered up a spur-of-the-moment signing event where he ticked through what he described as the "tremendous" accomplishments of his first year in office.

"This is the capper," Trump said of the tax package, using his last

TAXES » 10A

WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE

Students' boats save Christmas tradition

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA.» George Washington and his troops' annual Christmas Day trip across the Delaware River has been saved by boats made by children.

Organizers had feared the crossing would have to be canceled because low water levels in the river between Pennsylvania and New Jersey would have made it impossible for re-enactors to navigate their wooden Durham boats.

But Philadelphia Waterborne, a nonprofit that teaches boat-building skills to middle school and high school students, is lending the organizers six handmade, 12-foot rowboats. The boats only draw about 6 inches of water, meaning they can get across the river under current conditions.

The river's water level needs

CROSSING » 11A

Three students at the Maritime Academy Charter School in the Frankford area of Philadelphia learn boat-building skills in 2016 from the nonprofit Philadelphia Waterborne.
Provided by Nicholas Pagon

COLORADAN, ASTRONAUT BRUCE McCANDLESS DIES

NASA astronaut Bruce McCandless, the first person to fly freely and untethered in space, has died. The longtime Colorado resident was famously photographed in 1984 flying with a hefty spacewalker's jetpack, alone in the cosmic blackness above the blue Earth. »4A

"STORM CLOUDS" LOOM IN KOREA, MATTIS WARNS

"Storm clouds are gathering" over the Korean Peninsula, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis declares. And he tells soldiers that the U.S. military must be ready for war in case diplomatic efforts fail. »14A

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